

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, August 2, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Beinn Bhreagh, Victoria County, Cape Breton, N. S. Aug. 2nd. (1891) My dear Mrs. Bell:

I am as sorry as possible that you have not heard from us for so long a time. I have written, certainly twice, but for one reason and another the letters were never posted.

I have been so glad to hear that you were recovering your strength and enjoying the trip through Virginia. I would like very much to take just such a trip as yours and as Mamma and Papa propose taking in September. The year is always too short for all I would like to crowd into it.

We were all terribly disappointed that Mr. Bell did not appear at Lake George and I cannot help but think he made a mistake in not going I do not believe the journey would have hurt him if made not too rapidly, and the change of air would have done him good. But what I wanted him to see and what both you and he ought to have seen was how admirably your son filled his place, how splendidly he looked and spoke and how from first to last he carried the whole Association with him. Not to him alone was due the assembling of those men and women at Lake George, and without him perhaps much good work would have been at the meeting, but that it was the thorough, complete and enthusiastic success that it was, was due solely to the magnetism of his personality and his enthusiasm. There will be still another summer meeting with Alec as President, but it will not be the first . There is never anything quite like the first of a series whether it is of annual gatherings or of babies!

2

As I write in the tiny little box six feet by ten which Mr. McCurdy calls his office, Elsie and Daisy sit by my side on the sofa, Elsie listening as Daisy reads aloud. We feel encouraged

## Library of Congress

about Elsie and hope that when she returns from the visit away from us on which the doctor insisted before allowing her to come here she will be able to come home for good. She is very happy and enjoy her bathing, rowing, driving and riding. Her father has appointed her assistant supervisor of the place and she is full of the importance of her new position, and lays down the maxim that the trouble with our management has been that we "must have system, Papa, System." Nevertheless though out place has undoubt ed ly cost us much more than it ought, very great improvements have been made since last year. Four miles of new road of the best kind have been made and the grounds generally are very well kept up. Our field of oats is perfectly magnificent, the oats are so very thick. This is the field where we sat that first afternoon of our ride up the new road with Mr. and Mrs. Kennan and the cows routed us up. No fertilizer was applied the ground being so very rich.

Charlie leaves tomorrow. He caught salmon in Margaree and innumerable trout and I think hates to leave even more than usual. Grace and the children are well.

Please give my love to all, Affectionately, Mabel.